

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 IO-03 L-02 PRS-01 DPW-01 EUR-10

AID-10 RSR-01 /080 W

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R 140403Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4581

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12697

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I JULY 13, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USSAG NKP AND DAO/SAIGON
13 JULY REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE:

DANANG 0884

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL AND WAS SCATTERED MAINLY
THROUGHOUT THE THREE SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF THE REGION. ONE UNUSUAL
INCIDENT OCCURRED IN NORTHERN QUANG TRI IN THE MARINE CORPS DIVI-
SION AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY ON JULY 11. ACCORDING TO THE I CORPS
TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER (TOC) LOG, AT 1140 HOURS A MARINE 3/4
TON TRUCK ACCIDENTALLY ENTERED AN ENEMY CONTROLLED SECTOR AND
REACHED THE VICINITY OF YD380650, WHERE IT WAS CAPTURED. RESULTS:
FRIENDLY 3/4 TON TRUCK, QUANTITY OF "C" RATIONS, AND TWO M-16
RIFLES LOST. THE DRIVER AND A PASSENGER ESCAPED TO FRIENDLY
LINES. AND INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT
STATISTICS FOR THE TWO-DAY PERIOD BROKEN OUT ACCORDING TO THE DAY

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THEY WERE REPORTED AT THE I CORPS HEADQUARTERS MORNING BRIEFING.

JULY 12: FOUR CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, MADE UP OF ONE GROUND ATTACK, TWO ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), AND ONE HARASSMENT. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 2 KIA, 14 WIA; ENEMY 2 KIA, 1 CAPTURED.

JULY 13: FIVE CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, ALL ABFS. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 5 KIA, 18 WIA; ENEMY 6 KIA, 5 RETURNEES.

2. TPJMC ACTIVITIES:

COLONEL DO TUNG, CHIEF OF RVN DELEGATION TO REGION II TPJMC, TOLD CONGEN POLOFF THAT HIS COUNTERPART IN REGION I, COLONEL TRUONG TAN THUC, IS DUE TO BE REPLACED BY COLONEL HO NGOC TAM, CURRENTLY IN SAIGON AT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. COLONEL TUNG COULD GIVE NO REASON FOR THIS ACTION. POLOFF HUE HAS CONFIRMED THIS CHANGE TO TAKE PLACE JULY 14 AND CONSIDERS IT UNEXPECTED AND ABRUPT. POLES HAVE SPECULATED TO HIM THAT THUC WAS REPLACED BECAUSE OF RUNNING ARGUMENT WITH THE HUNGARIANS WHICH WAS EXACERBATED BY THUC'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW THEM TO CALL ON THE PRG LIAISON GROUP JULY 8 (DANANG 874, PARA 3). HUE POLOFF CONSIDERS THIS SPECULATION AS LIKELY TO BE MORE WISHPFUL THINKING THAN CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT.

3. GVN MILITARY ACTIVITY:

POLOFF QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT ON JULY 11, SECTOR STAFF BRIEFERS INDICATED THE BATTALION 2/6, 2ND ARVN DIVISION, IS BEING WITHDRAWN FROM THE NUI TRONG AREA OF WESTERN SON TINH (BS515780). THE BATTALION HAD BEEN AIRLIFTED INTO THE AREA LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AGO AS PART OF A PLANNED OPERATION TO SECURE WESTERN SON TINH (REF DANANG 826, 859). NOW IT IS TO BE REPLACED BY BATTALION 3/5. POLOFF COMMENT: REASONS FOR THE SHIFT WERE NOT ANNOUNCED. HOWEVER, THE SON TINH DISTRICT CHIEF, MAJOR TRAN NGOC TAN, TOLD POLOFF AND AREA DIRECTOR ON JULY 10 THAT 2ND DIVISION PLANS CALLED FOR A SECOND BATTALION TO CONDUCT A NORTH-SOUTH SWEEP BETWEEN NUI TRONG AND THE RAILWAY. POSSIBLY THE 2/6 BATTALION WILL CONDUCT THIS SWEEP WHILE THE 3/5 HOLDS THE BLOCKING POSITION AROUND NUI TRONG. END COMMENT.

4. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES:

A. ON JULY 12, POLOFF HUE LEARNED FROM THE I CORPS FORWARD STAFF BRIEFING THAT AERIAL PHOTOS SHOW THE PRESENCE OF TWELVE NEW SAM MISSILES IN THREE DIFFERENT SITES AROUND THE KHE SANH AREA
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IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE (XD 8542) AND A POL DEPOT NEAR THE AIRSTRIP. (THIS INFORMATION IS LIKELY BASED ON DATA ALREADY AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. MISSION.) INTELLIGENCE REPORTS BY THE G-2 AT THE SAME BRIEFING INDICATE SOME 30 TO 40 TENTS, TRUCKS AND AN ARMOR UNIT WITH 30 TANKS (POSSIBLY BELONGING TO THE 201ST TANK REGIMENT) ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF A LUOI (YD3800) IN FAR WESTERN THUA THIEN PROVINCE.

B. ACCORDING TO POLOFF HUE, QUANG TRI SECTOR S-2 REPORTS THAT THE ENEMY HAS REBUILT SEVEN BRIDGES ALONG NATIONAL ROUTE 9 FROM

KHE SANH TO CAM LO, APPARENTLY IN ORDER TO MAKE THE HIGHWAY
PASSABLE DURING THE MONSOON SEASON. THE BRIDGES ARE FOUR METERS
WIDE WITH IRON FRAMES AND WOODEN SUPERSTRUCTURES.

BROWN

UNQUOTE

APPLING

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